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The United States Public Health Service has always received prompt and full information from the director of sanitation of Cuba, Dr. Juan Guiteras, on matters which might be of interest or affect the public health of the United States. Dr. Guiteras is keeping the Public Health Service currently informed of all developments. Under such conditions of cooperation the occurrence of a few cases of plague has not been and need not be a cause for alarm.

TYPHUS FEVER.

ITS PREVALENCE AND GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO QUARANTINE ADMINISTRATION.

The following vessels have recently arrived at United States ports with typhus fever on board:

	Cases.
At Providence:	
Jan. 1, 1914, steamer <i>Roma</i> , from Marseille.....	1
Nov. 30, 1913, steamer <i>Germania</i> , from Marseille.....	2
Jan. 4, 1914, steamer <i>Roma</i> , from Marseille.....	1
At New York:	
Jan. 17, 1914, steamer <i>Belvidere</i> , from Trieste.....	4
Jan. 18, 1914, steamer <i>Kaiser Franz Joseph I</i> , from Trieste.....	1
Jan. 27, 1914, steamer <i>Rochambeau</i> , from Havre.....	2
Mar. 4, 1914, steamer <i>Pannonia</i> , from Trieste.....	1
Mar. 8, 1914, steamer <i>La Savoie</i> , from Havre.....	1

Other cases subsequently occurred as the result of contact with the above cases. The nationalities affected appear to be principally Turks, Armenians, Syrians, and Kurds. It is believed that the following statistics justify a most rigid examination of steerage passengers from western Asia and eastern Europe:

RUSSIA.

Place.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.
Moscow.....	Dec. 20, 1913-Jan. 31, 1914.....	34	3
Odessa.....	Jan. 3, 1914-Feb. 20, 1914.....	18	1
St. Petersburg.....	Dec. 13, 1913-Jan. 31, 1914.....	185	48
Warsaw.....	Oct. 25, 1913-Dec. 6, 1913.....	15	6

EGYPT.

Alexandria.....	Dec. 31, 1913-Feb. 18, 1914.....	68	12
Cairo.....	Dec. 16, 1913-Jan. 28, 1914.....	17	13
Beirut.....	Jan. 17, 1914-Feb. 21, 1914.....	11	7

TURKEY.

Salonica.....	Dec. 21, 1913-Feb. 21, 1914.....	24	21
Smyrna.....	Jan. 31, 1914-Feb. 14, 1914.....	5	5

SPAIN.

Madrid.....	Dec. 31, 1913-Jan. 31, 1914.....	4	4
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The period of incubation of typhus fever is of sufficient duration to allow an immigrant to take passage after infection and reach a United States port without showing evidence of the disease. Therefore steerage passengers from Western Asia and Eastern Europe in general, and from the above-mentioned localities in particular, should be examined carefully at the time of arrival at the quarantine stations in the United States, and subsequently examined by the officers of the service engaged in the examination of aliens to still further supplement the important work of endeavoring to determine what steerage passengers are most likely to convey the infection of typhus fever.

MOTHERS' BABY BOOKS.

INSTRUCTION FOR MOTHERS IN THE CARE OF INFANTS.

The Indiana State Board of Health has issued a small booklet containing information for mothers and prospective mothers on the care of the mother previous to the birth of the child and the care of the child when born. A copy of this booklet is sent to each mother in Indiana when her first child is born. Information as to who the mothers are is obtained from the birth certificates registered. This is one of the ways in which birth registration can be made of direct value in public health administration.

A committee of the American Association for the Study and Prevention of Infantile Mortality has also prepared a booklet on the baby which was adopted by the association at its meeting in Washington, D. C., in November, 1913. This booklet has been published by the Treasury Department and boards or departments of health can obtain copies for distribution to the mothers of infants by application to the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service in so far as the available edition will allow. Or health officers can furnish the addresses of mothers to the Public Health Service on frank slips which will be sent on request. Copies of the booklet will then be mailed to these addresses by the Surgeon General.

AN OPEN LETTER.

To owners, agents, and masters of lake and river vessels:

SIR: I desire to call your attention to the fact that there were admitted to the United States marine hospitals during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1913, 392 cases of typhoid fever among seamen employed aboard United States merchant vessels.

Considering the fact that in addition to this number many other cases were treated at various public hospitals and at home, it is